

REMARKS

Applicants' appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the February 10, 2005 personal interview. The points discussed during the personal interview are incorporated herein.

As discussed during the personal interview conducted on February 10, 2005, Applicants' collagen implant composition is distinguishable over the cited art because it preserves the original fiber architecture and molecular ultrastructure of the collagen material from which it is derived. In this regard, Applicants' note that the Specification states, for example, that in the collagen implant, "the collagen material is presented in mouldable form at the fibre fragment level of organization," *see* International Publication No. WO 00/15274 (which is the published PCT application corresponding to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/786,853)¹ at p. 4, and that the collagen implant "comprises a biocompatible carrier medium having dispersed therein particles of collagenous material, where the particles comprise fragments of collagenous fibres and are thus sufficiently large to preserve the original architecture and molecular structure of the natural tissue material from which they are derived...." *Id.* at p. 5. Similarly, the Specification states that when tested *in vitro* and *in vivo*, the collagen implant utilizes "collagen fibre fragments," *id.* at p. 7, and, when used to suppress scarring from wounds that it serves "to introduce fibre-structured fragments into the wound space." *Id.* at p. 8.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding

¹/ A copy of International Publication No. WO 00/15274 is attached hereto.

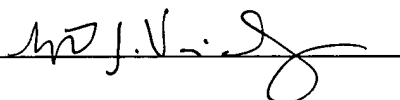
after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1349. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: International Publication No. WO 00/15274